

Message

From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard [politicoemail@politicopro.com]
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To: Jackson, Ryan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=38bc8e18791a47d88a279db2fec8bd60-Jackson, Ry]
Subject: EPA says Pruitt predecessors took expensive international trips too

By Emily Holden

03/21/2018 02:27 PM EDT

EPA pushed back on criticism over Administrator Scott Pruitt's expensive travel today, highlighting data showing his predecessors in the Obama administration spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on international trips, too.

But while the calculations by EPA show former Administrator Gina McCarthy frequently visited other countries, she always flew coach, even on long flights where agency rules may have allowed her to upgrade. EPA says Pruitt traveled first class because of the high number of threats to his safety.

McCarthy made 14 trips to other countries in her three-and-a-half-year tenure, totaling \$731,000 for her, staff and security to fly and stay abroad, EPA said. Pruitt and his team spent at least \$120,000 on a single trip to a G-7 environment meeting in Italy in June, including \$36,000 on a military jet to New York to catch a flight to Rome. Pruitt also has spent at least \$105,000 on first class flights since May, according to agency records released yesterday to the House Oversight Committee.

Spokesman Jahan Wilcox called it a "double-standard" that the media did not report on EPA travel costs under President Barack Obama but "under the Trump Administration the costs to protect our government officials is somehow scandalous."

McCarthy's travel costs ranged from \$55,385 for a 2013 trip to China to \$90,368 for a visit to Dubai in 2015, according to calculations by EPA.

The first Obama administration EPA administrator, Lisa Jackson, spent \$155,764 on a 2011 trip to China, EPA said. Jackson flew business class on at least two international trips, to Kenya and China, according to agency notes.

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